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SENATE BILL NO. 1102

Offered January 8, 2025

Prefiled January 7, 2025

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.01:1, relating to Board of Education; programs of instruction; Safety First Comprehensive Drug Education Pilot Program established.

Patron—Hashmi

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.01:1 as follows:

§ 22.1-206.01:1. Safety First Comprehensive Drug Education Pilot Program; established; requirements.

A. As used in this section, "Safety First Curriculum" means the Safety First: Comprehensive Drug Education and Intervention Curriculum developed by the Halpern-Felsher REACH Lab in the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford Medicine.

B. The Safety First Comprehensive Drug Education Pilot Program (the Program) is established for the purpose of providing public school students scientifically accurate, interactive, and compassionate instruction relating to drugs and substance use based on a comprehensive, harm-reduction-based drug intervention curriculum.

C. Pursuant to the Program, each public secondary school located in Superintendent's Region 7 shall (i) implement the Safety First Curriculum in any program of instruction through which instruction relating to drugs is provided to students pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-206 or (ii) if any such public secondary school does not offer any such program of instruction, provide at such grade level as the applicable school board and the Department deem appropriate, a program of instruction relating to drugs based on the Safety First Curriculum. The school board of each public secondary school located in Superintendent's Region 7 shall collect and submit to the Department by September 1 of each year data relating to the impact of the Program on students in each public secondary school for the immediately preceding school year, including data on (a) the number of students who received instruction based on the Safety First Curriculum pursuant to the Program; (b) the number of drug-related disciplinary, health, or safety incidents involving students that occurred on school property; and (c) such other data as such school board deems appropriate.

D. The Department shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of the Program. The Department shall:

1. Coordinate with the school board of each public secondary school located in Superintendent's Region 7 to implement the Safety First Curriculum through an existing program of instruction through which instruction relating to drugs is provided to students pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-206 or to develop and provide a program of instruction based on the Safety First Curriculum;

2. Develop guidelines relating to the implementation of the Safety First Curriculum in an existing program of instruction or to the development and provision of a program of instruction based on the Safety First Curriculum that includes guidance (i) for school boards and administrative personnel on determining at what grade levels the implementation of the Safety First Curriculum would be appropriate and (ii) for instructional personnel on transitioning from providing instruction relating to drugs based on any curriculum currently utilized to providing instruction relating to drugs based on the Safety First Curriculum;

3. Make available to each school board that governs a school division located in Superintendent's Region 7 any instructional materials, curriculum guidelines, or other resources developed by the Halpern-Felsher REACH Lab for the purpose of implementing and providing instruction based on the Safety First curriculum; and

4. Develop and submit to the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education by October 1 of each year a report detailing the impact of the Program on each public secondary school located in Superintendent's Region 7, based on the data received pursuant to subsection C.

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall expire on July 1, 2027.

3. That the Board of Education shall amend its regulations set forth in 8VAC20-310-10 relating to the provision of health education program instruction in drugs and drug abuse to require public schools in the Commonwealth to emphasize in any such health education program instruction prevention, intervention, and harm reduction, consistent with the Safety First: Comprehensive Drug Education and Intervention Curriculum developed by the Halpern-Felsher REACH Lab in the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford Medicine.